

# DISCUSSION

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## What culture and whose culture should we teach?

In L. Aleksandrowicz-Pędich's paper I find both approaches to teaching culture I have practised for years: an intercultural approach focusing on the target culture and an intracultural approach directing the students' attention towards our own culture. And the dilemmas involved in teaching about the Others through the mirror of ourselves in their eyes.

In fact, whenever I advertised a new course as a "cultural" course (usually teaching English combined with teaching culture), students believed that they would be studying some interesting aspects of the British or American culture (historical events and/or interesting people and places). My explanation during the first class with a new group of students that I would like to compare some aspects of the target and our own culture on the level of everyday life made them somehow less enthusiastic about the new course. They may not have been aware of the differences between their own and the target culture(s) on that ordinary level, and "culture" seemed to them to be the realm of the Unusual and the Sublime.

I remember a very successful "cultural" workshop for English teachers combined with a course developing their English language skills. The course had a rather cryptic name *Regional education in cross-curricular activities*. Since the English language school which conducted the course won a grant from the Małopolska region to make teachers more aware of its heritage and riches, the projects that were implemented in the workshop were entirely focused on various aspects of the region. Natural addressees of what the teachers found out about the Małopolska region were English speaking visitors. Consequently, not only the cultural tradition behind *bigos* was explained but also historical places and traditions were translated into English in a very concrete and practical way, e.g. some teachers prepared a guided tour for a group of English speaking visitors around the famous pilgrimage places at Kalwaria Zebrzydowska.